PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q80707

Takafumi NOGUCHI

Appln. No.: not yet assigned

Confirmation No.: not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

Filed: March 26, 2004

Examiner: not yet assigned

For:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Attorney Docket No. Q80707

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

JP-A-Nos. 11-283751, 2002-313554 and 2002-313567 are cited and discussed on page 4 of the above-identified specification.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 25, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

Sheet

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMEN'T BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

of

Application Number	Not yet assigned
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Filing Date	March 26, 2004
First Named Inventor	Takafumi NOGUCHI
Art Unit	Not yet assigned
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q80707

Complete if Known

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		Document Number		T.		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documen	
		US 4,774,435		9/27/1988	Levinson	
		US				
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	***	US				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner	Cite	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or		
Initials*	No.1	Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶	
		JP	11-283751	A	10/15/1999			
		JP	2002-313554	Α	10/25/2002			
		JP	2002-313567	A	10/25/2002			
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.			
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.